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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 5725.0533

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1734

Examiner: G. R. Koch III

In re Application of:

ALAIN BETHUNE et al.

Application No.: 09/506,795

Filed: February 18, 2000

For: MATERIAL SUPPLY STRIP,

SYSTEM, AND METHOD OF

APPLYING PIECES OF

MATERIALS TO OBJECTS

RECEIVED

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee payment of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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With respect to the foreign language documents, Applicants submit herewith a copy of an office action from the Japanese Patent Office for a related Japanese application in which these foreign language documents were cited, and an English language translation of the Japanese office action. The Japanese office action indicates the degree of relevance of these references found by the Japanese Patent Office.

Additionally, for JP 5-294054 and JP 10-240131, Applicants have enclosed an English language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 7, 2003

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